

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/059,136
Amendment dated March 12, 2004
Reply to OA of December 12, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method for joining members comprising the steps of: placing a the sheet-form, curable pressure-sensitive adhesive on one of said members, said curable pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a composition including:

(A) a high molecular weight polymer having a molecular weight of several tens of thousands to 5 million;

(B) a compound containing an epoxy group; and

(C) a polymerization initiator which, when an activation energy is applied thereto, initiates the compound (B) to undergo a ring-opening polymerization; and

irradiating the sheet-form, curable pressure sensitive adhesive with an ultraviolet light having an intensity greater than 1 mW/cm² in a wavelength range exceeding 300 nm, either before or after said one member is adhered to another member via the sheet-form, curable pressure-sensitive adhesive.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

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Claim 14 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein said high molecular weight polymer (A) is an acrylic polymer.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein said composition comprises 100 parts by weight of an acrylic polymer (A), 1 - 1000 parts by weight of the compound (B) and 0.01 - 1000 parts by weight of the polymerization initiator (C).

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the acrylic polymer (A) is a copolymer obtainable by copolymerizing a compound (a) containing at least one (meth)acryloyl group and at least one hydroxyl group per molecule with a copolymerizable monomer (b) which is copolymerizable with the compound (a).

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said compound (a) is at least one selected from the group consisting of the following compounds (1) through (10):

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said copolymerizable monomer (b) is selected from the group consisting of methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, benzyl (meth)acrylate and (meth)acrylic acid ester of alcohols containing a C-O-C ether bond.

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Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein said polymerization initiator (C) is a cationic photopolymerization initiator.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein said cationic photopolymerization initiator is an onium salt compound.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein said composition further comprises a vinyl ether compound.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The sheet-form, curable pressure-sensitive adhesive in accordance with claim 21, said composition includes 1 - 30 parts by weight of the vinyl ether compound relative to 30 - 70 parts by weight of the compound (B).